

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SSO-00 (ISO) W

-----021943Z 097587 /45

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4656

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BERLIN 5902

E O 11652: NA

TAGS:

SUBJ: CULTURAL PROBLEMS

REF: A) STATE 090513; B) STATE 096347; C) STATE 097560

1. PAO REQUESTED MEETING AT MFA WITH DR. MERKEL APRIL 28 BUT WAS TOLD HE HEAVILY ENGAGED, CONSEQUENTLY HIS ASSISTANTS, TOSCH AND STARKER, WOULD GRANT APPOINTMENT MONDAY MAY 2. IN HOPE OF ACCELERATING REPLIES, FIRST TWO ITEMS TO BE RAISED WERE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL OVER PHONE. AT MEETING, PAO DISCUSSED FOUR ITEMS AS FOLLOWS

2. PHILARTE QUARTET: PROPOSED FOR PERIOD BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 8-18, ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS AND CONCERT FEE COVERED BY USG, WHILE ALL INTERNAL TRAVEL, FOOD AND LODGING TO BE COVERED BY GDR. TELE-VISED CONCERTS OR STUDIO PERFORMANCES INCLUDED.

3. JAMES DICKEY: PAO WONDERED WHY DECISION TAKING TOO LONG SINCE BETTIN HAD ACCEPTED VISIT IN PRINCIPLE AND SAID DETAILS WERE TO BE WORKED OUT REGARDING SPONSORSHIP AND ACTIVITIES.

4. PROFESSOR HUGH SISLER: AFTER DETAILS OF REFTEL AND URGENT NEED FOR CONFIRMATION OF GDR INFORMATION CONVEYED, TOSCH PROMISED PROMPT REPLY. TOWARDS COV, TOSCH PHONED WITH FOLLOWING DETAILS, WHICH DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PASS ON; VISA FOR SISLER WAITING AT UNCLASSIFIED

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BORDER CROSSING AT WARTHA, NEAR EISENACH, WHICH APPARENTLY CORRESPONDS SISLER'S WISH.

5. JOAN HOLMES: PAO SAID EMBASSY PLEASED NOTE THAT ABSENCE OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT DID NOT STAND IN WAY ALLOWING HOLMES TO COMPLETE DRAMA PROJECT WHICH IN INTEREST BOTH COUNTRIES, AND REQUESTED CONFIRMATION INFORMATION GIVEN IREX THAT VISA WOULD BE

ISSUED AS OF MAY 5 FOR SIX MONTHS.

6. TOSCH RESPONDED IN REVERSE ORDER: MFA HAS BEEN INFORMED OF HOLMES NEW VISA STATUS FOLLOWING IREX DISCUSSIONS AND TOSCH FORESEES NO PROBLEM AND WILL SO INFORM MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, UNDER WHOSE AUTHORITY HOLMES WILL CONTINUE TO BE. WHEN TOSCH COMMENTED THAT HE HOPED THE VISA COULD BE ISSUED BY MAY 5, PAO RESPONDED THAT ANY FURTHER DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED IN HOLMES CASE COULD AFFECT IREX SIGNING NEW AGREEMENT, WHICH NOTETAKER STARKER, ON SIGNAL FROM TOSCH, RECORDED. TOSCH PROMISED TELEPHONIC CONFIRMATION ASAP.

7. HAD NO NEW INFORMATION ON JAMES DICKY BECAUSE BETTIN AWAY AND REFERENTIN TEUTSCHBEIN ON LEAVE. REMINDED THAT DICKY NEEDED KNOW ASAP BECAUSE OF ITINERARY WHICH INCLUDED MOSCOW AND WARSAW, AND THAT JUNE CREEPING UP FAST, TOSCH REPEATED PLEDGE RELAY DECISION AND DETAILS BY PHONE. (FYI - AT ALL DISCUSSIONS OF JAMES DICKY, POINT HAS BEEN MADE THAT HE IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT. END FYI).

8. ON PHILARTE QUARTET, TOSCH NOTED THAT EARLY SEPTEMBER DATES WERE FAVORABLE BECAUSE CONCERT HALLS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE INASMUCH AS BERLIN CULTURAL FESTIVAL BEGAN LATER IN MONTH, ALTHOUGH HE SAID INCLUSION IN FESTIVAL WOULD BE DESIRABLE. TOSCH REQUESTED WRITTEN CONFIRMATION ALL DETAILS SURROUNDINGS PHILARTE ENGAGEMENT, WHICH WAS DONE WITHIN HOURS AFTER MEETING.

9. ON SAME DAY, IN FACT ONE HOUR LATER AT DUTCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, DR. MERKEL WAS IN FULL EVIDENCE AND WHEN CORNERED AND UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMED OF FOREGOING, REPLIED THAT HIS STAFF WOULD CERTAINLY FOLLOW THROUGH ON EVERY ASPECT. MERKEL THEN VOLUNTEERED HAVING JUST LEARNED OF DIFFICULTIES ACQUIRING EXHIBIT SPACE FOR PAUL STRAND AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT PUT ON EXHIBIT STILL 1977. HE SAID THAN WHEN ORIGINAL REQUEST CONSIDERED LAST YEAR, SEVERITY OF DISPLAY CONDITIONS NOT KNOWN, AND CONSEQUENTLY LIMITED GALLERY POSSIBILITIES. IT WAS AGREED THAT STAATS-BIBLIOTHEC IN BERLIN CONTINUES TO BE EXCELLENT SITE. REFERRING TO "ALL OTHER PROBLEMS," AS HE PHRASED IT, MERKEL SAID HE HOPED EMBASSY WOULD NOT ENTERTAIN NOTION THAT DIFFICULTIES WERE INTENTIONAL. POLANSKY

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